12, 1991 and submitted a memorandum regarding their demands; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) and (b) A Memorandum dated 10 November 1991 has been received in the Ministry of Defence from the Veterans (World II) Coordinating Cell requesting for grant of pension to World War II Retrenchees. Since the World War II Retrenchees were engaged for short periods ranging from 2—6 years and did not have the requisite qualifying service for pension, they are not eligible for pension. Several States have, however, instituted schemes for grant of old-age pension to the needy persons. These schemes cover the World War II Veterans also. In addition, requests of such veterans for grant of financial assistance from Welfare Funds at the disposal of Ministry of Defence/Services Headquarters are also sympathetically considered.

One rank-one pension of ex-servicemen

702. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA:
SHRI SUKOMAL SEN:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 330 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 18th July, 1991 and state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have accepted the principle of one rank-one pension for the armed forces pensioners;

(b) if so, by when it is likely to be implemented and if not, the reasons thereof;

(c) what is the financial implication of the scheme; and

(d) whether Government have ensured betterment of lowest paid pensioner under the scheme and if so, in what manner?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) to (d) The Government has constituted a High Level Empowered Committee to comprehensively review the difficulties faced by pre-1.1.86. Defence Pensioners and *interalia*, examine the demand for 'One Rank-One Pension'. The Committee is required to submit its report by 31.12.91.

The Government is fully seized of the problems faced by the lowest paid pensioners. It has been Govt's constant endeavour to better the lot of the lowest paid segments of Govt. employees/ pensioners.

Realisation of Government Funds by Cantonment Boards under Central Command

703. PROF. SAURIN BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that most of the Cantonment Boards under the Central Command have been neglecting realisation of Government dues from various sections of the society within the limits of such Cantonments;

(b) whether the Director of Defence States have received several representations including legal notices on such failures of concerned Boards pertaining to assessment of house-taxes, realisation of correctly assessed STR on leases and consequent failures in the matters of services and insanitation etc., during the last three years;

(c) if so, the details in this regard; and

(d) what steps are proposed to be taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) No, Sir. Cantonment Boards are not responsible for collection of Government dues.

(b) to (d) Director General, Defence Estates has received a complaint dated 20-11-1991 from one Shri Ram Babu Misra, Advocate, Kanpur, addressed to Director Defence Estates, Central Com-